

ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER: Review of Revitalization Efforts in Flint, Michigan

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This study presents a review of four different revitalization programs used in Flint, Michigan. The strategies examined include a downtown theme park named AutoWorld, universities and other higher educational institutions, the Genesee County Land Bank Authority, and tax incentives used to attract businesses. While the evidence suggests that AutoWorld failed to be the economic engine that city leaders anticipated, Kettering University and University of Michigan-Flint are strong contributors to Flint's economy. Similarly, the Genesee County Land Bank Authority has proven to be a powerful driving force behind revitalization efforts in Flint. Tax incentives seem to garner more mixed outcomes. While they may attract some initial investment, tax incentives do not guarantee long-term positive results. Recommendations from the study include approaching government-backed development projects with caution, creating strong partnerships with local educational institutions, following the land bank model if applicable, and ensuring that tax-abated businesses fulfill their economic promises.